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Japan-USSR: /Tokyo apparently is prepared to break off the current annual fishery negotiations with the Soviet Union and to conduct fishing operations in the western Pacific without an agree ment if Moscow refuses to agree to reasonable quotas for the Japanese salmon catch.

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Arab League - France: The UAR-dominated Arab League Council will hold an emergency session in Cairo today to discuss, among other questions, an Arab states boycott of French goods and the freezing of French assets, as a protest against French nuclear tests. In mid-March Cairo quietly banned further permits for importing French goods, and Saudi Arabia reportedly has followed suit. Since economic relations with France are important to many Arab states, the league members present probably will remain split over the issue, and unanimous action by all Arab states appears unlikely. Some members of the league, however, may follow Cairo's lead and boycott French goods. Afro-Asian UN members are continuing their campaign for a special General Assembly session.

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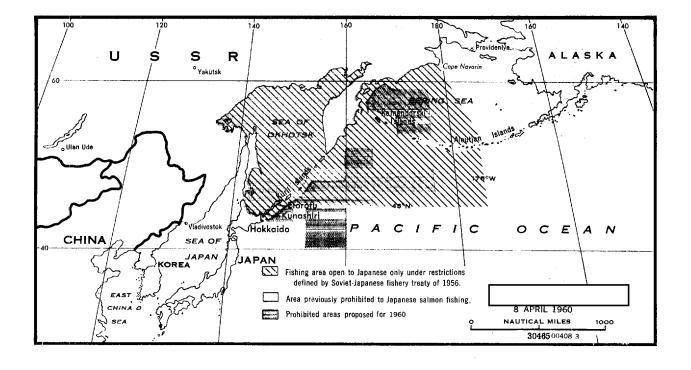
DAILY BRIEF

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Soviet-Japanese Fishing Talks

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Tokyo is apparently prepared to break off the annual negotiations with the USSR for a fishery agreement in the north-western Pacific and to proceed with its fishing operations if Moscow refuses to agree to reasonable quotas for the Japanese salmon catch in 1960.

Agricultural Minister Fukuda, who is leaving for Moscow to become chief Japanese delegate in the two-month-old talks, told Ambassador MacArthur on 6 April that the Soviet proposals for this year would reduce the Japanese salmon catch by 70 percent. Fukuda believes Japan's best chance is to insist on a reasonable agreement and to be prepared to fish without an agreement, if necessary. He emphasized, however, that in such case the Japanese would limit their salmon catch to a reasonable figure.

The chief Soviet aim in the current negotiations appears to be an extension of the salmon fishing ban south of the existing line into an area where the Japanese take more than half of their entire salmon catch. The Soviet Union has as yet made no attempt, as it has in past years, to use the fishing terms as a lever to obtain political concessions from Japan.

The Japanese stand this year is more firm than in past negotiations. Partly as a result of pressure by former Prime Minister Yoshida, the government has ruled against elements who would barter political concessions such as surrender of Japanese claims to the Kuril Islands for favorable fishing terms.

The Jap-

anese position also reflects a gradual regrowth of national confidence, which in the past year has been evident in the conclusion of a repatriation agreement with North Korea and the

emergence of a firmer policy toward South Korea?

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